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LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 10 March 1993 regarding the declaration of the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin made at the Congress of the "Civil Union" on 28 February this year.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

Azerbaijan notes with concern the increasingly strident calls in recent months in the Russian Federation for the restoration of Russia's previous military and political influence in the territory of the former USSR. It is regrettable that calls of this nature more and more frequently emanate from representatives of the highest echelons of power in Russia. Thus, in his address on 28 February 1993 at the Congress of the Civil Union, President B. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation stated that a time had come when the appropriate international organizations, including the United Nations, should grant Russia special powers as the guarantor of peace and stability in the territory of the former USSR.

This statement cannot fail to cause well-founded concern and a sense of outrage in Azerbaijan. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan states that the granting of special powers to Russia will inevitably lead to interference in the internal affairs of the new sovereign States and will ultimately jeopardize their national independence and territorial integrity.

For international organizations to grant Russia the mandate of a "guarantor of peace and stability in the territory of the former USSR" would constitute a flagrant violation of all universally recognized norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the basic principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and those of other authoritative international organizations.

Russia's ambition to secure the status of a "guarantor" runs counter to the Russian leadership's repeated assertions of its desire to base its relations with the new independent States on the principles of good-neighbourliness, equal rights and non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

The Azerbaijani leadership considers initiatives of this nature to be unconstructive and inconsistent with new international realities. Our position with regard to regional conflicts and, in particular, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, is based on the priority of the peacemaking efforts of CSCE, in which framework we welcome the active participation of Russia as a full member of the Minsk negotiating process.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan considers it imperative to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of its position on this question.

10 March 1993